
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

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NOAA-001-R282

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2001

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RELEASES
SERVICE ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR
TROPICAL STORM ALLISON TEXAS/LOUISIANA FLOOD EVENT**

NOAA'S National Weather Service, an agency of the Commerce Department, released today its Service Assessment for the Texas/Louisiana flood event associated with Tropical Storm Allison. The costliest tropical storm in the nation's history, Allison left 24 dead and caused more than \$5 billion in damage in Texas and Louisiana – before moving eastward to wreak havoc along the Gulf and East Coasts of the United States. Service assessments are standard reviews of National Weather Service operations during major weather events.

From June 5 through June 11, 2001 -- severe storms, torrential rainfall and massive flooding inundated communities throughout southeast Texas and southern Louisiana. In Texas -- 23 people died (22 in Houston), 45,000 homes and businesses were flooded and 28 counties were declared federal disaster areas. One person also died in Louisiana where more than 1,000 homes were flooded and a state of emergency was declared in 25 parishes.

"This devastating event reminds us once again that the current state of the science of forecasting and early warnings can only take us so far," said Larry Mooney, NWS service assessment team leader. "The National Weather Service and its emergency management and media partners will continue to vigorously pursue their efforts to focus public awareness on the often extreme dangers of driving or walking into flooded areas."

The service assessment report provides details on National Weather Service support to state and local emergency management teams, flood control districts and local communities. The assessment is available at:

http://205.156.54.206/om/service_assessments/allison.pdf

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